

M.Phil Thesis

**FRAMING OF AFGHAN CRISIS AFTER ASHRAF GHANI
REGIME: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CNN AND AL
JAZEERA WEB NEWS**



RESEARCHER

Yousaf Khan

Reg: 482 FSS/MSMC/S21

SUPERVISOR

Dr. Rooh Ul Amin Khan

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN

(May 2024)

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

The fall of the Ashraf Ghani regime in Afghanistan in August 2021, which led to the Taliban's return to power, garnered extensive international media attention. This study examines how *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*, two prominent global news organizations, themed the Afghan crisis in their web news coverage during the six months following the regime's collapse. Using quantitative content analysis, the research scrutinizes a purposive sample of articles from both outlets, focusing on language, sources, thematic emphasis, and the portrayal of key actors. Preliminary findings indicate that *CNN* primarily themed the crisis through a humanitarian lens, emphasizing the suffering of civilians, especially women and children, and the involvement of the United States and its allies. Conversely, *Al Jazeera's* coverage tended to highlight geopolitical dynamics, regional implications, and perspectives from the Taliban and neighboring countries. Despite these differences, both news organizations shared a common focus on the instability and uncertainty post-regime change, though with varying emphases on causes and consequences. This comparative analysis underscores significant variations in framing, reflecting broader editorial orientations and audience targeting. The findings highlight the crucial role of media framing in shaping public perception and discourse on international crises, offering insights into the impact of media on global public opinion and conflict reporting.

Keywords; *Afghan crisis, media framing, CNN, Al Jazeera, Ashraf Ghani, Taliban, qualitative content analysis, international news, conflict reporting.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan, located in South Asia, is a landlocked country bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast. The capital and largest city is Kabul. Afghanistan has a rich history, marked by its strategic location along ancient trade routes and the influences of various civilizations. The country has a diverse ethnic and linguistic makeup, with Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks being among the major ethnic groups. The dominant religion is Islam, with the majority of the population adhering to Sunni Islam (Alikuzai, 2013).

The framing of the Afghan crisis following the Ashraf Ghani regime holds significant importance in understanding how major international news outlets interpret and portray complex geopolitical events. This comparative study focuses on the web news coverage of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*, two influential media organizations with global reach and diverse audiences. By analyzing their framing strategies, narrative choices, and agenda-setting roles, the study aims to provide insights into how these media outlets shape public perceptions of the post-Ghani Afghan crisis (Schmeidl, 2002).

The study examines the framing strategies employed by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* in their coverage of the Afghan crisis. Framing refers to the selection and emphasis of certain aspects of a story while downplaying or omitting others, influencing how audiences perceive and interpret the news. By analyzing the language, imagery, and tone used in news articles, the study seeks to identify the dominant themes through which *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* present the Afghan crisis (Essar, Ashworth & Nemat, 2022).

The study explores the editorial perspectives of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* in their framing of the Afghan crisis. Both media outlets have distinct editorial priorities, audience demographics, and geopolitical agendas that shape their coverage of international events. *CNN*, as a prominent American news network, may prioritize certain narratives and perspectives in its coverage, reflecting U.S. interests and policy objectives. *Al Jazeera*, on the other hand, is a Qatar-based network known for its independent and alternative viewpoints, which may influence its framing of the Afghan crisis (Damanhoury & Saleh, 2017).

Next, the study analyzes the emphasis on key issues and stakeholders in *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*'s coverage of the post-Ghani Afghan crisis. *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* may prioritize different

aspects of the crisis, such as political developments, security concerns, humanitarian issues, or regional implications. Moreover, their framing choices may reflect differing perspectives on key stakeholders, including the Afghan government, Taliban insurgents, neighboring countries, international actors, and Afghan civilians (Jasperson & El-Kikhia, 2004).

Furthermore, the study examines the portrayal of various actors and events in *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* coverage of the Afghan crisis. Media framing can influence how different parties are depicted, shaping perceptions of their motivations, actions, and responsibilities. *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* may offer contrasting narratives on issues such as governance, security, human rights, peace negotiations, and foreign intervention, reflecting their editorial biases and audience preferences (Damanhoury & Saleh, 2017).

Moreover, the study considers the role of contextual factors, such as historical precedents, cultural sensitivities, and geopolitical dynamics, in shaping *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* framing of the Afghan crisis. Media coverage is influenced by broader contextual factors that shape the news agenda and impact editorial decisions. *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* may draw on historical narratives, regional alliances, and cultural understandings to themes the Afghan crisis in ways that resonate with their respective audiences (Gerhards & Schäfer, 2014).

Additionally, the study explores the use of multimedia elements, interactive features, and social media engagement in *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* web news coverage of the Afghan crisis. Digital journalism allows for innovative storytelling techniques and audience engagement strategies that enhance the impact and reach of news coverage. *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* may employ multimedia content, live updates, user-generated content, and interactive maps to enhance their coverage and foster audience participation (Jasperson & El-Kikhia, 2004).

Furthermore, the study investigates audience responses and engagement with *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* coverage of the Afghan crisis. Audience perceptions and interpretations of news framing can vary based on factors such as political affiliation, cultural background, and media consumption habits. By analyzing audience feedback, comments, and social media interactions, the study can assess the effectiveness and impact of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* framing strategies (Pallosi, 2015).

Moreover, the study considers the implications of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* framing of the Afghan crisis for public opinion, policy debates, and international relations. Media framing can shape public perceptions, influence policy responses, and impact diplomatic relations between

countries. *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* coverage of the Afghan crisis may contribute to public discourse on issues such as foreign intervention, peace negotiations, human rights, and humanitarian assistance (Haigh & Bruce, 2017).

The study reflects on the broader significance of media framing in shaping global perceptions of conflict and crisis situations. Media coverage plays a crucial role in shaping public understanding and awareness of international events, influencing public opinion, and informing policy decisions. By analyzing the framing of the Afghan crisis by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of media representation, agenda-setting processes, and the role of media in shaping public discourse on global issues (Cassara & Lengel, 2004).

In recent decades, Afghanistan has faced significant challenges, including political instability, armed conflicts, and foreign interventions. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 marked the beginning of a protracted conflict that lasted for nearly a decade. The subsequent Afghan civil war further destabilized the country, paving the way for the rise of the Taliban, a fundamentalist Islamist group, in the 1990s. The 2001 invasion by a U.S.-led coalition, in response to the 9/11 attacks and the Taliban's support for terrorists, overthrew the Taliban regime. This marked the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, which continued for years as the international community aimed to stabilize the country, establish democratic governance, and combat insurgent groups (Taye, 2021).

CNN, a prominent American news network, themed the Afghan crisis through the lens of Western interests and geopolitical implications. The coverage often emphasized the potential threats posed by the Taliban resurgence, highlighting concerns about regional stability and the impact on global security. *CNN's* narratives frequently incorporated perspectives from U.S. officials, providing insights into the American government's response and its stance on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. The network's framing tended to underscore the challenges faced by the international community in the wake of the Ghani regime's collapse (Di Giacomo, 2022).

Despite efforts to rebuild and develop Afghanistan, the country has faced ongoing security challenges, with the Taliban regaining strength and influence. The withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces in 2021 added another layer of complexity to the situation. The political landscape remains fragile, with peace negotiations ongoing but progress slow and uncertain. The

Afghan people have demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity, and there are hopes for a stable and prosperous future. However, the complex geopolitical dynamics, ethnic tensions, and the presence of various armed groups continue to pose significant obstacles to achieving lasting peace and development in Afghanistan (Khwahan, 2015).

1.1 Background

Samuel-Azran (2010) mentioned in his book (*Al-Jazeera and US war Coverage*) *Al Jazeera*, an Arab-based news network known for its comprehensive coverage of Middle Eastern affairs, brought a different angle to the narrative. *Al Jazeera's* framing of the Afghan crisis often centered on local perspectives, including the voices of Afghan civilians and regional actors. The network offered in-depth assessments of Afghanistan's sociopolitical dynamics, cultural quirks, and historical background. The goal of *Al Jazeera's* coverage was to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the situation by addressing the impact on the Afghan people as well as the personal stories, in addition to the geopolitical ramifications.

The underlying prejudices and priorities of each news organization are exposed through a comparison of the web news coverage of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*. Local and regional aspects of the issue were brought to light by *Al Jazeera's* reporting, whereas *CNN's* emphasis was more on international security and Western interests. For media consumers looking for a balanced view of the Afghan issue, comprehending these various themes is essential because it emphasizes the value of taking into account multiple sources to obtain a more thorough grasp of complicated geopolitical events (Gerhards & Schafer, 2014).

1.1.1 Crisis in Afghanistan:

Decades of armed conflict, societal unrest, and political instability have defined the Afghan problem. One of the most significant events in recent Afghan history was the Soviet invasion in 1979. This invasion led to a protracted conflict as Afghan resistance, backed by international support, sought to repel the Soviet forces. The withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1989 did not bring stability, and Afghanistan plunged into a devastating civil war as various factions vied for control. The 1990s saw the rise of the Taliban, an Islamist militant group that captured Kabul in 1996 and imposed its strict interpretation of Islamic law. The Taliban regime faced international isolation due to its support for terrorist groups, including hosting Osama bin Laden. The 2001 U.S.-led invasion aimed to dismantle the Taliban and eliminate the terrorist threat

following the 9/11 attacks. While the Taliban was initially ousted, the conflict continued, evolving into a complex insurgency (Cordesman, 2019).

Despite international efforts to establish a stable government, the Afghan political landscape remained fraught with challenges. Corruption, ethnic tensions, and a resilient insurgency contributed to the ongoing crisis. The presence of various militant groups, including the Taliban and, more recently, an affiliate of the Islamic State, further complicated the security situation. The withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces in August 2021 marked a critical turning point. The rapid territorial gains by the Taliban, coupled with the collapse of the Afghan government, shocked the international community. Kabul fell to the Taliban, leading to chaotic scenes at the airport as Afghans sought to flee the country. The swift Taliban takeover raised concerns about the future of human rights, particularly for women and minorities, and the potential for Afghanistan to once again become a safe haven for terrorist organizations (Rajmil, et al., 2022).

The crisis in Afghanistan is multifaceted, involving political, security, and humanitarian dimensions. The international community faces the challenge of responding to the immediate humanitarian needs of the Afghan people while navigating the complex geopolitical dynamics that continue to shape the country's fate. Afghanistan remains at a critical juncture, with the potential for renewed instability and a long path ahead towards building a sustainable and inclusive peace (Samsor, 2021).

The Taliban's takeover of power in Afghanistan has aggravated an already severe humanitarian situation. Although the world has concentrated on the evacuation from Kabul's international airport, the fall of the Ashraf Ghani government has not been overlooked. Twenty years after 9/11, Afghanistan is still battle-scarred by displacement and migration as a result of foreign military departure. Although some individuals have been evacuated, many remain stranded, and the disaster will have long-term consequences for neighbouring countries. The international community must band together to address the economic, political, and security ramifications of this humanitarian catastrophe (Mason, 2021).

Since 2017, Afghanistan has grappled with a myriad of crises, ranging from political instability to security challenges, economic downturns, and humanitarian emergencies. Politically, the country has been plagued by ongoing conflicts between government forces, Taliban insurgents, and various other militant groups. Despite efforts to negotiate peace

agreements, violence has persisted, leading to civilian casualties and displacement. Security concerns have remained paramount, with frequent terrorist attacks targeting civilians, government officials, and international organizations. These attacks have undermined efforts to stabilize the country and have hindered socio-economic development. Economically, Afghanistan has faced significant challenges, exacerbated by the withdrawal of international military forces and reduced foreign aid. High levels of unemployment, poverty, and corruption have further strained the economy, impeding progress and exacerbating social tensions (Cordesman, 2022).

Humanitarian crises have also intensified, with millions of Afghans facing food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and displacement due to conflict and natural disasters. Access to basic services has been limited in many areas, exacerbating the suffering of vulnerable populations. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has added another layer of complexity to Afghanistan's challenges, stretching its already fragile healthcare system and exacerbating socio-economic disparities. Overall, the crises faced by Afghanistan since 2017 have posed significant obstacles to peace, stability, and development, highlighting the urgent need for concerted national and international efforts to address the country's multifaceted challenges.

In 2020, Afghanistan continued to grapple with a multitude of crises, further exacerbating the challenges already present in the country. One of the most pressing issues was the escalation of violence and insecurity, particularly following the February agreement between the United States and the Taliban. Despite ongoing peace negotiations, violence persisted, with numerous attacks targeting civilians, government officials, and security forces. This instability hindered progress towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict and exacerbated humanitarian suffering.

The COVID-19 pandemic also emerged as a significant crisis in 2020, posing immense challenges to Afghanistan's already fragile healthcare system and exacerbating existing socio-economic vulnerabilities. The pandemic strained the country's limited healthcare infrastructure, leading to shortages of medical supplies, personnel, and hospital beds. Moreover, lockdown measures and disruptions to economic activity further compounded the hardship for vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons and refugees (Essar et al., 2021).

Economically, Afghanistan faced severe setbacks in 2020, with the pandemic exacerbating pre-existing issues such as high unemployment, widespread poverty, and a dependence on foreign aid. Restrictions imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 resulted in economic downturns, particularly in sectors such as trade, tourism, and remittances. These challenges deepened the country's economic woes, exacerbating social tensions and contributing to increased poverty and food insecurity. Furthermore, political instability persisted in 2020, marked by disputes over the presidential election results and ongoing challenges to governance and rule of law. Political fragmentation and corruption undermined efforts to address the country's pressing issues, hindering progress towards peace, stability, and development. Overall, the crises faced by Afghanistan in 2020 underscored the urgent need for comprehensive and coordinated responses to address the country's multifaceted challenges. Efforts to achieve lasting peace, improve governance, strengthen healthcare systems, and promote socio-economic development remain critical priorities for Afghanistan and the international community (Shah et al., 2020).

1.1.2 Ashraf Ghani Regime:

Ashraf Ghani's regime in Afghanistan, which spanned from 2014 until his sudden departure in August 2021, was characterized by a mix of challenges and accomplishments. Ghani assumed the presidency after a contested election that led to a power-sharing agreement with his rival, Abdullah Abdullah. His tenure aimed at addressing critical issues facing the country, including security concerns, economic development, and political stability. One of the primary challenges during Ghani's presidency was the persistent threat of insurgency, particularly from the Taliban. Despite efforts to strengthen the Afghan security forces and engage in peace talks, the security situation remained precarious, with frequent attacks impacting both urban and rural areas. The Taliban's resurgence posed a significant hurdle to Ghani's vision of a stable and secure Afghanistan (Andisha, 2022).

Economically, Ghani's administration faced difficulties in promoting sustainable development. Afghanistan's economy relied heavily on international aid, and efforts to diversify revenue streams faced obstacles due to on-going conflict and political instability. The country struggled with high unemployment rates and a fragile infrastructure, hindering the progress of economic reforms. Ghani's leadership style, characterized by technocratic expertise and a focus on meritocracy, aimed at building efficient and accountable governance. However, this approach

faced criticism for its perceived elitism and a perceived lack of inclusivity. The power dynamics within the government, coupled with allegations of corruption, created challenges in building a cohesive and united administration (Rashid, 2017).

In the later years of Ghani's presidency, his government engaged in peace talks with the Taliban, culminating in the Doha Agreement in 2020. However, the peace process faced setbacks, and the abrupt fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021 marked the end of Ghani's regime. His sudden departure seeking asylum in the United Arab Emirates generated controversy and left a power vacuum that contributed to the ensuing crisis in Afghanistan. Ghani's presidency, while marked by efforts to address various challenges, ultimately concluded amid a rapidly changing and tumultuous geopolitical landscape in the region (Taye, 2021).

1.1.3 Media Landscape:

Media is a plural term that encompasses various communication channels, such as television, radio, newspapers, and the internet, used to disseminate information, news, entertainment, and other content to a broad audience (Sarhadi, et al, .2023). Afghanistan's media environment has always been changing, reflecting the nation's intricate socio-political circumstances. Afghanistan's media landscape has changed significantly over time, especially since the overthrow of the Taliban government in 2001. There was a noticeable rise in media outlets and freedom of expression when the Taliban were overthrown by the United States-led intervention. As independent media outlets arose, they offered a wide variety of voices and viewpoints on radio, television, and internet platforms. This represented a significant departure from the stringent restrictions that were in place during the Taliban regime (Liwal, 2021).

Nonetheless, there have been many difficulties facing Afghanistan's media environment. Media professionals and journalists have been vulnerable to acts of violence, threats, and attacks, frequently carried out by rebel groups or influential individuals dissatisfied with the coverage provided by the media. Journalists' freedom of operation has been hampered by the precarious security environment, especially in areas affected by conflict. Furthermore, the viability and independence of media outlets have been influenced by problems like financial limits, political meddling, and self-censorship. The media industry's financial sustainability has been a source of worry, as numerous outlets have depended on foreign aid (Hatef & Cooke, 2020).

The development of the internet and digital media has also had a big impact on how the media landscape has changed. Alternative forums for public conversation and information

distribution have been made possible by social media platforms. But there have also been drawbacks to the digital sphere, such as the dissemination of false information and the difficulty in controlling online content. The future of media freedom in Afghanistan is unknown given the shifting political situation, particularly in light of events that occurred in 2021, such as the Taliban's comeback to power. The Taliban has a history of restricting freedom of expression during its previous rule, and concerns have been raised about the potential impact on independent journalism (Marska, 2022).

1.1.4 Media Use in Political Involvement:

Through influencing public opinion, spreading information, and fostering communication between political actors and the general public, the media is crucial in forming political activity. There is a complex relationship between media and political participation, with different media outlets playing a role in increasing public participation in politics. The media's important role in spreading information about politics is one of its main effects. Traditional and digital news sources are used to disseminate political news, policy debates, and election updates. To stay updated about political topics, candidates, and events, citizens depend on these sources. This helps them to engage more actively in the democratic process and make more informed decisions (Corsello, 2022).

Media also provides a forum for political discussion and debate. A better informed and involved public is promoted by the venues created for discussing various political viewpoints on radio, television, and in online forums. Citizens can learn about opposing ideas and develop their own opinions on political issues by watching debates, interviews, and town hall meetings that are shown on different media platforms. Social media platforms have become effective instruments for political engagement, giving users the ability to voice their thoughts, distribute political content, and establish connections with like-minded people. Real-time interactions between citizens and political figures, organizations, and other citizens are made possible by social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Social media is essential for organizing and mobilizing political groups because it speeds up the dissemination of information (Erdiana, 2023).

But it's important to understand the difficulties that come with using the media to get involved in politics. The standard of public discourse is at risk from the dissemination of skewed narratives and the possibility of false information. Furthermore, the phenomenon known as "echo chambers," in which people are mainly exposed to material that supports their preexisting

opinions, can exacerbate polarization and restrict exposure to opposing viewpoints. By disseminating information, encouraging dialogue, and bringing the public closer to the political process, the media plays a critical role in facilitating political participation. While media platforms enhance accessibility and engagement, it's important for individuals to critically evaluate the information they consume and consider the broader impact of media on shaping political attitudes and behaviors (Ross, 2023).

Waheed (2013) stated that the role of media in politics is multifaceted and influential, shaping public opinion, disseminating information, and holding government officials accountable. In democratic societies, a free and independent media serves as a cornerstone of democracy, providing citizens with access to diverse perspectives and fostering informed decision-making. One crucial aspect of the media's role in politics is its function as a watchdog. Journalists investigate government actions, uncover corruption, and report on abuses of power, serving as a check on the authority of political leaders and institutions. Through investigative reporting and exposure of wrongdoing, the media plays a vital role in holding elected officials and public servants accountable for their actions

Moreover, the media serves as a conduit for political communication, facilitating dialogue between government officials, political parties, and the public. Politicians utilize various media platforms to disseminate their messages, communicate policy initiatives, and engage with constituents. Additionally, media outlets provide a forum for public debate and discussion, allowing diverse voices and viewpoints to be heard on political issues and policies. The media also plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing political discourse. Through news coverage, analysis, and commentary, media organizations themes political events and issues, shaping how they are perceived by the public. Journalistic narratives and editorial decisions can influence public attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions, ultimately impacting electoral outcomes and policy debates (Azzolini et al., 2022).

Furthermore, in the digital age, social media platforms have emerged as powerful tools for political communication and mobilization. Politicians, activists, and citizens alike use social media to disseminate information, organize campaigns, and engage in political discourse. However, the proliferation of misinformation and the echo chamber effect on social media have raised concerns about the quality and integrity of political communication in the digital realm (Castellani, 2018).

Media in politics is essential for the functioning of democratic societies, providing transparency, accountability, and a platform for public participation. However, media organizations must uphold journalistic ethics and principles to ensure the integrity and credibility of their reporting, thereby fulfilling their democratic responsibilities effectively. People use media in politics for a variety of reasons, reflecting the diverse roles and functions that media serve in democratic societies. One primary motivation is the need for information and knowledge about political issues, events, and candidates. Media outlets, including newspapers, television, radio, and online platforms, provide a wealth of information on government policies, electoral campaigns, and political developments, enabling citizens to stay informed and engaged in the political process (Kuitto & Podesta, 2023).

Moreover, media serve as a platform for political communication and expression, allowing individuals and groups to voice their opinions, advocate for their interests, and participate in public discourse. Through letters to the editor, opinion pieces, and social media posts, people can contribute to political debates, share their perspectives, and influence public opinion on a wide range of issues. Media also play a crucial role in shaping public perception and understanding of political events and actors. Journalistic coverage, analysis, and commentary help themes political narratives, shape public attitudes, and influence voter behavior. Additionally, media scrutiny and investigative reporting can hold politicians and government officials accountable for their actions, exposing corruption, abuses of power, and unethical behavior (Sriram & Visalvanich, (n.d).

Media serve as a means of political mobilization and organization, enabling political parties, advocacy groups, and grassroots movements to reach and mobilize supporters. Campaign advertisements, rallies, and social media campaigns are common tools used by political actors to promote their agendas, engage with voters, and mobilize support for specific candidates or causes. In essence, people use media in politics to access information, express their views, shape public opinion, hold government accountable, and participate in the democratic process. Media serve as a vital conduit for political communication and engagement, facilitating dialogue, debate, and decision-making in democratic societies (Ugwanyi & Aloysius, 2020).

The advantages of media in politics are manifold, playing a crucial role in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in democratic societies. One significant advantage is the democratization of information, as media outlets provide accessible platforms

for citizens to access a wide range of political news, analysis, and commentary. This dissemination of information empowers individuals to make informed decisions, participate in public discourse, and hold government officials accountable for their actions. Moreover, media serve as a watchdog, monitoring government activities, exposing corruption, and scrutinizing the actions of political leaders and institutions. Investigative journalism plays a vital role in uncovering wrongdoing, abuses of power, and ethical lapses, thereby fostering accountability and integrity in governance. By shining a light on issues of public concern, media contribute to the maintenance of a healthy democracy and the protection of civil liberties. Media also serve as a forum for public debate and discussion, facilitating the exchange of diverse perspectives and viewpoints on political issues and policies. Through news programs, web news, and opinion pieces, media outlets provide a platform for citizens to engage in dialogue, challenge prevailing narratives, and advocate for their interests. This open exchange of ideas fosters pluralism, tolerance, and democratic deliberation, enriching the quality of public discourse (Shiferaw et al., 2011).

Furthermore, media play a crucial role in political education and civic engagement, helping to cultivate an informed and active citizenry. By providing coverage of electoral campaigns, policy debates, and civic events, media outlets encourage voter participation, political awareness, and civic involvement. In doing so, media contribute to the vitality and resilience of democratic institutions, strengthening the foundations of self-governance and collective decision-making. Additionally, media enable political actors, including candidates, parties, and advocacy groups, to reach and mobilize supporters effectively. Through campaign advertisements, rallies, and social media campaigns, political actors can communicate their messages, engage with voters, and mobilize support for their agendas. This outreach contributes to the vibrancy of political competition and the responsiveness of elected officials to the needs and preferences of the electorate. In sum, the advantages of media in politics include promoting transparency, accountability, citizen engagement, political education, and effective communication. By fulfilling these roles, media play a vital role in sustaining democratic governance and fostering a robust and inclusive public sphere (Weaver, 2012).

1.1.5 Cable News Network (CNN)

CNN, or Cable News Network, is a globally recognized news organization headquartered in the United States. Established in 1980 by media mogul Ted Turner, *CNN* became the first 24-

hour television news channel, revolutionizing the way news was delivered to audiences worldwide. Over the years, *CNN* has evolved into a multimedia platform with a strong online presence, delivering news through television, digital platforms, and social media. Known for its commitment to providing real-time news coverage, *CNN* has been a pioneer in breaking news and reporting on major global events. The network covers a wide range of topics, including politics, business, technology, entertainment, and international affairs. *CNN* International ensures a global reach, offering news and perspectives from diverse regions (Kalyango, 2011).

CNN's reporting often reflects a U.S.-centric perspective, and it has been a significant player in shaping public discourse on domestic and international issues. The network has faced both praise and criticism for its editorial choices, with some lauding its comprehensive coverage and others pointing to perceived biases in its reporting. *CNN* has created a number of web news and documentaries in addition to news coverage, which has helped to establish its reputation as a thorough news and information source. Because of its reach outside of the US, *CNN* is a major force in the world of media (Feldman et al., 2012).

The Cable News Network (*CNN*) covers issues through various formats and approaches, reflecting its commitment to providing comprehensive and diverse news coverage. *CNN* employs a combination of news reports, analysis, interviews, and commentary to cover a wide range of issues, including politics, international affairs, business, technology, health, and culture. One of *CNN*'s primary formats for covering issues is through its news programs, such as "*CNN* Newsroom," "The Situation Room," and "Anderson Cooper 360°." These programs feature breaking news coverage, in-depth reporting, and analysis of current events, offering viewers a timely and authoritative source of information on key issues. *CNN* also utilizes its team of correspondents, reporters, and analysts stationed around the world to provide on-the-ground reporting and firsthand insights into significant developments. Whether it's covering elections, conflicts, natural disasters, or other major events, *CNN*'s global network of journalists ensures that viewers receive up-to-date and reliable information from diverse perspectives.

In addition to news reports, *CNN* offers analysis and commentary from a range of experts, pundits, and contributors. Shows like "The Lead with Jake Tapper" and "Cuomo Prime Time" feature interviews and panel discussions on pressing issues, allowing viewers to gain deeper insights and perspectives on complex topics. Moreover, *CNN*'s digital platforms, including its website and social media channels, play a vital role in covering issues by providing

multimedia content, interactive features, and real-time updates. Through articles, videos, live streams, and social media posts, *CNN* engages audiences across various platforms and fosters community engagement and discussion around important issues. Overall, *CNN*'s approach to covering issues is characterized by its commitment to journalistic integrity, thoroughness, and diversity of viewpoints. By leveraging its global resources, experienced journalists, and multimedia platforms, *CNN* strives to provide audiences with comprehensive, timely, and insightful coverage of the issues that matter most.

1.1.6 *Al Jazeera*:

Since its founding in 1996, the Qatar-based television network *Al Jazeera* has grown to become a significant force in the world of news. *Al Jazeera* was established to offer a different viewpoint to news that is mostly focused on the West, but it has since grown to be known for its thorough and in-depth reporting on Middle Eastern issues. The Arabic name of the network, which translates to "The Island," symbolizes its beginnings in the Arabian Peninsula (Jasperson & El-Kikhia, 2004).

Al Jazeera is known for its in-depth and frequently innovative reporting on a broad range of subjects, including as politics, conflicts, human rights, and social issues. With offices spread across multiple nations, the network provides varied perspectives and on-the-ground news, especially from the Middle East and North Africa. *Al Jazeera*'s dedication to reporting on topics from areas that Western media frequently ignores has been one of its noteworthy accomplishments. The network has led the way in covering events like the Arab Spring and giving views that might not otherwise be heard a platform. *Al Jazeera* serves distinct audiences on its Arabic and English-language channels, which expands its influence and worldwide reach (Seib, 2008).

However, *Al Jazeera* has not been without controversy. It has faced criticism from some governments and entities for its editorial decisions and perceived bias. Several countries have, at times, taken issue with the network's coverage, leading to diplomatic tensions. Despite the controversies, *Al Jazeera* has maintained a commitment to journalistic integrity and has won numerous awards for its reporting. The network's digital platforms and various channels ensure a broad and diverse audience, making *Al Jazeera* a significant force in shaping global perceptions of events in the Middle East and beyond (Sadig & Petcu, 2019).

Al Jazeera News covers events with a distinct approach that emphasizes global perspectives, in-depth analysis, and diverse viewpoints. The network strives to provide comprehensive coverage of international events, particularly those affecting the Middle East and North Africa, while also highlighting stories from around the world. One notable aspect of *Al Jazeera's* coverage is its extensive network of correspondents and bureaus located in key regions across the globe. This allows the network to provide on-the-ground reporting and firsthand insights into significant developments, giving viewers a deeper understanding of complex issues. *Al Jazeera's* news programs feature a mix of breaking news coverage, in-depth analysis, and investigative reporting. Shows such as "*Al Jazeera* News Hour" and "*Al Jazeera* Investigates" provide viewers with timely updates on major events and delve into the underlying factors driving them.

Moreover, *Al Jazeera* offers a range of opinion and analysis programs that feature discussions and debates on pressing issues. Shows like "Inside Story" and "UpFront" bring together experts, analysts, and policymakers to offer diverse perspectives and insights on topics ranging from politics and economics to social issues and human rights. In addition to its television broadcasts, *Al Jazeera's* digital platforms play a significant role in covering events. The network's website and social media channels provide audiences with a wealth of multimedia content, including articles, videos, live streams, and interactive features. This allows viewers to access news and information in real-time and engage with *Al Jazeera's* reporting across various platforms.

Al Jazeera's coverage often emphasizes stories that may be underreported or overlooked by other media outlets, particularly those related to marginalized communities, human rights abuses, and social justice issues. This commitment to amplifying diverse voices and shedding light on overlooked stories is a hallmark of *Al Jazeera's* approach to journalism. Overall, *Al Jazeera* News covers events with a focus on providing comprehensive, balanced, and insightful coverage that reflects the network's commitment to journalistic integrity and global perspectives. Through its diverse range of programs, platforms, and perspectives, *Al Jazeera* seeks to inform, engage, and empower audiences around the world.

1.2 Statement of the Problem:

The fall of the Ashraf Ghani regime in Afghanistan in August 2021, followed by the Taliban's rapid takeover, marked a significant turning point in the nation's history. This event not only led to profound geopolitical and humanitarian consequences but also highlighted the critical role of global media in shaping international narratives and public perceptions. As prominent news organizations with distinct editorial policies and audience bases, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* provide valuable case studies for understanding how different media outlets themes such a complex and multifaceted crisis.

However, there is a noticeable gap in scholarly research regarding the comparative analysis of media framing by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* concerning the Afghan crisis post-Ghani regime. Previous studies have often focused on individual media outlets or general media coverage without delving into specific comparative analyses that account for varying geopolitical perspectives and editorial approaches. This lack of focused comparative research leaves a significant gap in our understanding of how different global media outlets influence public perception and discourse about international crises.

The problem at hand is the need to systematically examine and compare the framing techniques employed by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* in their web news coverage of the Afghan crisis. This involves identifying key differences and similarities in their narratives, thematic emphases, and portrayals of key actors involved in the crisis. By addressing this gap, the study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the role media framing plays in shaping global perceptions and responses to international events. The findings from this research will not only contribute to the academic discourse on media framing but also offer practical insights for journalists, policymakers, and media consumers in navigating and interpreting media coverage of global conflicts.

1.3 Significant of the study:

The development and incidents or issues of Afghanistan highlighted on leading an international current affairs talk show at that time in their web news plate form, the main focus of this study to show that how this leading TV web news highlight the development and incidents or crisis of Afghanistan in their TV shows. Which channel give highest rate of coverage. This study based on content analysis of approved TV web news.

The study on the framing of the Afghan crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime holds significant importance in understanding how major international news outlets portray and interpret complex geopolitical events. By conducting a comparative analysis of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* web news coverage, the study offers insights into the framing strategies employed by these influential media organizations, shedding light on their editorial perspectives, narrative choices, and agenda-setting roles in shaping public perceptions of the Afghan crisis. Understanding how *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* themes the post-Ghani Afghan crisis provides valuable insights into the nuances of media representation, highlighting differences in framing strategies, emphasis on key issues, and the portrayal of various stakeholders involved in the conflict.

Moreover, the comparative study offers a broader understanding of the global media landscape and its implications for international relations and public diplomacy. The contrasting approaches of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* in framing the Afghan crisis reflect not only their editorial priorities and audience preferences but also their broader geopolitical agendas and ideological orientations. By examining these framing differences, the study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of media bias, agenda-setting processes, and the role of media in shaping public discourse and policy responses to complex geopolitical crises. Ultimately, the study's findings have implications for media practitioners, policymakers, and scholars seeking to understand the multifaceted dynamics of media coverage and its impact on global perceptions of conflict and crisis situations.

1.4 Objectives of the Study:

- To analyse the common themess used in the coverage of the Afghanistan Crisis.
- To find out the common news sources used in the coverage of the Afghanistan Crisis.
- To examine how the coverage of Afghanistan Crisis by *CNN* and *Al-Jazeera* differ in the use of Societal/Economic Consequences Themess

1.5 Research Questions

- **RQ 1.** What common themess are used while covering Afghanistan Crisis?
- **RQ 2.** What common sources are used in the coverage of the Afghanistan Crisis?
- **RQ 3.** How did the *CNN* and *Al-Jazeera* Web News differ in the use of Societal/Economic Consequences Themess in the Coverage of Afghanistan Crisis?

1.6 Delimitation of the Study:

In the current analysis the researchers decided to delimit their study by narrowing the scope of their investigation. First, they set a geographical boundary, choosing to concentrate solely on the framing presented by two major news outlets: *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*. These media titans would be the protagonists in their quest for understanding, allowing the researchers to delve deeply into the unique narratives spun by these influential storytellers.

The researchers also delved into the temporal dimension, setting a specific timethemes for their study. They decided to scrutinize the news coverage during a defined period following the collapse of the Ashraf Ghani regime. They were able to take a momentary picture of media narratives at a pivotal point in the developing crisis because to this temporal boundary, which served as a narrow focus for their comparison research.

Acknowledging the significance of the digital era, the researchers further defined their research by concentrating exclusively on online news. Online platforms have emerged as important venues for influencing public opinion in this age of instantaneous information distribution. The researchers focused only on digital news in order to better understand how these platforms presented the Afghan Crisis following the overthrow of the Ghani regime. These boundaries served as the scholars' compass points as they traveled forward in their pursuit of knowledge.

The geographical, temporal, and platform boundaries ensured that their study would be a well-defined exploration into the comparative framing of the Afghan Crisis by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news. Little did they know that within these boundaries, they would uncover valuable insights into the complexities of media representation and the diverse?

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The opening chapter of this thesis discussed the issues related to Afghanistan and the media landscape. The current chapter presents a review of the existing literature on the topic and provides the theoretical themeswork for the current study, posing research questions to be examined. Several studies have analysed the framing of various crisis, political and other issues on media especially current affairs web news. All these issues combined help us provide substance to our theory. Similarly, the existing literature in similar circumstances also guides us, leading our research to conclusions validating our research questions. Some of these studies are discussed below.

The Afghanistan crisis has been marked by a series of complex and interconnected challenges, including political instability, security concerns, and humanitarian issues. One of the pivotal events was the rapid takeover of the Taliban, an insurgent group, leading to the collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021. The withdrawal of international forces, particularly the United States, played a significant role in the Taliban's resurgence. The group rapidly gained control of various provinces, raising concerns about the potential impact on human rights, particularly for women and minorities. The Taliban's previous rule from 1996 to 2001 was characterized by strict interpretations of Islamic law. The international community expressed deep concern about the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Afghanistan. Millions of people faced challenges such as food shortages, displacement, and limited access to essential services. Economic difficulties were exacerbated by the freezing of Afghan assets and the suspension of international aid (Essar et al., 2022).

Diplomatic efforts were underway to address the situation, with a focus on encouraging the Taliban to respect human rights and establish an inclusive government. Evacuation efforts aimed to rescue foreign nationals and vulnerable Afghans. Discussions revolved around potential sanctions, aid distribution, and international responses to the evolving crisis. Given the fluid nature of the situation, it's crucial to consult more recent and reliable sources for the latest developments in the Afghanistan crisis. The geopolitical landscape and the well-being of the Afghan people continue to be of global concern (Kokoshina, 2022).

Aday (2010) examines that In August 2021, the Taliban, an insurgent group, rapidly gained control of various provinces, leading to the fall of the Afghan government. The

withdrawal of international troops, particularly the United States, played a significant role in the Taliban's resurgence. The rapid takeover resulted in widespread concern for the future of human rights, particularly for women and minorities, as the Taliban had a history of imposing strict interpretations of Islamic law during its previous rule from 1996 to 2001.

The international community expressed deep concern about the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Afghanistan, with millions of people facing food shortages, displacement, and limited access to basic services. Economic difficulties, such as the freezing of Afghan assets and the halting of foreign help, made the situation even more difficult. As the crisis deepened, numerous countries and organizations launched diplomatic initiatives to resolve the issue, concentrating on pressuring the Taliban to uphold human rights and form an inclusive government. In addition to continued talks about possible sanctions and the delivery of aid, evacuation operations were in place to save vulnerable Afghans and foreign nationals (Sengupta, 2021).

Media from the West, such as *CNN*, *BBC*, and *The New York Times*, have frequently highlighted the security ramifications of the Taliban's comeback, especially in light of the exit of the United States and NATO. Insights from political figures, military specialists, and Afghan citizens were frequently incorporated into the coverage, providing a thorough understanding of the situation. The ramifications for international counterterrorism initiatives as well as the situation of Afghan women and minorities under Taliban rule were also covered by these publications.

News organizations from the Middle East, like *Al Jazeera* and *Arab News*, offered distinctive viewpoints based on the local environment. They regularly featured interviews with local specialists, politicians, and common people and their coverage typically emphasized historical and cultural nuances. *Al Jazeera*, in particular, provided a forum for individuals who were directly impacted by the crisis while keeping a close eye on the voices of the Afghan people. The Taliban's takeover was reported by Asian media outlets, especially those from nearby nations like India and Pakistan, with an emphasis on the geopolitical implications for the area (Hasan, 2022).

The reporting frequently looked at how border security and diplomatic ties would be handled by surrounding countries in the wake of Afghanistan's political transition. The evacuation operations carried out by several nations to remove foreign nationals and vulnerable

Afghans were also widely reported by the international press, highlighting the crisis's humanitarian implications as well as its logistical difficulties. Human rights issues also dominated the news, especially those pertaining to the possibility of retaliation and limitations on individual liberties under Taliban authority (Asghar et al., 2020).

All things considered, the international press was vital in spreading knowledge, raising public consciousness, and influencing how the world saw the Taliban's invasion of Afghanistan. The multiplicity of viewpoints offered by various channels highlighted the complexity of the issue and the necessity for viewers to interact critically with news coverage in order to comprehend the events as they are happening on a more in-depth level (Hussain & Jehangir, 2023).

According to Kikhia (2003) there seems to have been a single, cohesive response in the minds of the public, the government, and the media following the September 11th attacks on the United States. This is based on American perspectives. The American audience witnessed awful views of the Twin Towers collapsing and burning ruins from the Pentagon, followed by heart breaking images of anti-American celebrations in numerous Middle Eastern countries. As American policymakers agreed on a course of action in reaction to the attacks, the plan was sold in the American media, notably on *CNN* television. Concurrently, the United States' military reaction was relayed to the Arab world via a number of Middle Eastern media outlets, notably *Al Jazeera* television.

Ayesha (2021) examines that the migration of Afghan refugees to Pakistan has occurred over several decades, with different waves of displacement driven by various factors such as conflict, instability, and economic hardships. During the Soviet-Afghan War (1979–1989), there was a notable influx of Afghans into Pakistan. Millions of Afghans abandoned their nation in 1979 as a result of the Soviet Union's invasion in order to avoid the fighting and the Soviet occupation that followed.

Many of these refugees sought shelter in neighbouring Pakistan. The influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan continued throughout the 1980s and the early 1990s. Most Afghan refugees made their home in Pakistani border towns and camps, mostly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region.

Over time, some Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan, but others faced protracted displacement, and new waves of migration occurred due to subsequent conflicts and instability in

Afghanistan. The situation has been complex, with ongoing challenges for both Afghan refugees and the Pakistani government in managing the humanitarian needs and social integration. The exact timeline of Afghan migration to Pakistan can vary, but it is closely tied to significant events in Afghanistan's recent history, especially during times of conflict and insecurity (Ali, 2022).

Orfan (2020) examines that the study's major purpose was to look at the political activity of Afghan youngsters on Facebook. It investigated the frequency with which Afghan teenagers used Facebook, as well as the influence of gender, age, and job position on their political involvement and engagement in the 2019 presidential elections on Facebook. Data was gathered using an online survey form. SPSS version 26.0 was used to analyse the data. To address the study questions, descriptive statistics, the T-test, and the One-Way ANOVA test were used. The findings revealed that, despite spending at least half an hour on Facebook every day, Afghan youngster did not actively participate in political activities. They were involved in low-cost, low-risk political operations, such as shadowing Afghan leaders.

2.1 Regarding News Media in Pakistan

Ricchiardi (2012) stated that the news media in Pakistan dates back to the period before its independence in 1947. During British colonial rule, the press was primarily focused on the Indian subcontinent's freedom struggle, with newspapers like "Dawn" and "The Pakistan Times" emerging as significant platforms advocating for Muslim rights and the creation of Pakistan. "Dawn" was founded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1941, and it played a crucial role in mobilizing public opinion in favor of the Pakistan Movement. The media landscape at that time was characterized by a mix of English and vernacular languages, catering to a diverse readership. After Pakistan gained independence, the news media continued to evolve, facing various challenges and restrictions, especially under military regimes. The first major blow to press freedom came during the regime of General Ayub Khan (1958-1969), who introduced strict censorship laws and controlled the flow of information. Despite these constraints, newspapers like "Dawn" and "The Pakistan Times" maintained their critical stance on governance issues. The 1970s saw further suppression under General Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and later, General Zia-ul-Haq's regime (1977-1988) intensified media censorship, using draconian laws to silence dissent and control the narrative (Mezzera & Sial, 2010).

The 1980s and 1990s marked a period of gradual liberalization and the emergence of new forms of media, including private television channels. The advent of satellite television and the internet in the late 1990s and early 2000s significantly changed the media landscape. Private TV channels like Geo News, ARY News, and others broke the state monopoly on electronic media, providing a platform for more diverse and critical viewpoints. This period also saw an increase in investigative journalism and the exposure of corruption scandals, although journalists often faced threats and violence for their work (Yousaf, 2023).

According to Bashir (2013) Pakistan's news media has become increasingly digital, with social media platforms playing a vital role in news dissemination and public discourse. However, challenges persist, including censorship, physical threats to journalists, and economic pressures on media organizations. Despite these obstacles, the media continues to be a powerful force in Pakistan, reflecting the country's dynamic and often turbulent political landscape. Efforts to regulate online content have sparked debates about freedom of expression, highlighting the ongoing struggle between state control and media independence.

2.2 Theoretical Themeswork:

The applicable theory on the current study is “agenda-setting theory”. It is a communication theory that explores the influence of mass media on the public agenda, shaping the topics and issues that people consider important. The thesis, which was put forth by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1972, contends that the media has the ability to influence people's thoughts on subjects as well as what to believe about them. The notion is based on the idea that media outlets have the power to shape public perceptions of issues by carefully choosing and presenting news content. The media sets the agenda by emphasizing particular subjects, occasions, or ideas in order to bring them to the attention of the general public. According to the hypothesis, a problem is more likely to be viewed as significant by the public the more attention it receives in the media (Zain, 2014).

There are two primary phases of agenda-setting: the media agenda, where news outlets select which stories to highlight and cover, and the public agenda, where people take up these topics as important topics for discussion and reflection. Though the theory does not necessarily contend that the media dictates to its audience what to think, it does argue that the media shapes public opinion by favoring, highlighting, and repeating particular topics. Over time, agenda-

setting theory has expanded to include a range of media platforms, including social media, online news, and traditional news sources.

It emphasizes how the media shapes public views and priorities and the dynamic link that exists between it, society, and political processes. As media landscapes continue to evolve, agenda-setting theory remains a relevant themeswork for understanding the media's impact on public awareness and discourse (Wu & Coleman, 2009).

The agenda-setting theory is highly applicable to the framing of the Afghan crisis following the Ashraf Ghani regime in a comparative study of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news coverage. Agenda-setting theory posits that the media have the power to influence the public's perception of what issues are important by determining the prominence and salience of certain topics in the news agenda. In the context of the Afghan crisis, both *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* play a significant role in shaping the public's understanding of the conflict through their framing of key issues and events.

Firstly, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*'s editorial decisions regarding which aspects of the Afghan crisis to emphasize and prioritize reflect their agenda-setting power. *CNN*, as a major American news network, may prioritize issues that align with U.S. interests and foreign policy objectives, such as security concerns, counterterrorism efforts, and the role of the United States in the region. Conversely, *Al Jazeera*, with its independent and alternative perspectives, may highlight issues such as regional dynamics, civilian casualties, humanitarian crises, and the impact of foreign intervention.

Secondly, the framing choices made by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* influence the public's perception of the Afghan crisis and shape the broader discourse surrounding the conflict. By selecting specific themes, such as the "war on terror" narrative or the "struggle for democracy" narrative, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* can influence how audiences interpret and understand the complexities of the Afghan crisis. These framing choices can impact public opinion, policy debates, and international relations by shaping the narrative around key issues such as governance, security, human rights, peace negotiations, and foreign intervention.

Moreover, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*'s framing of the Afghan crisis can impact the news agenda of other media outlets and shape the broader public discourse on the conflict. As influential global news organizations, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*'s coverage sets the tone and direction for media coverage of international events, influencing which issues receive attention and which

are overlooked. The prominence given to certain aspects of the Afghan crisis by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* can amplify their significance in the public consciousness and shape the priorities of policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders involved in addressing the crisis.

Furthermore, the agenda-setting power of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* extends to their digital platforms, where they reach audiences across the globe and engage with users through interactive features and social media channels. By leveraging multimedia content, live updates, and user-generated content, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* can amplify their agenda-setting influence and foster audience participation in the framing of the Afghan crisis. Audience responses, comments, and social media interactions can provide valuable feedback on the effectiveness and impact of their framing strategies, further shaping the news agenda and public discourse on the conflict.

The agenda-setting theory is highly applicable to the framing of the Afghan crisis in a comparative study of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news coverage. By analyzing their framing choices, editorial priorities, and agenda-setting power, the study can provide insights into how these influential media organizations shape public perceptions, influence policy debates, and contribute to the broader discourse surrounding the conflict. Understanding the agenda-setting role of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* in framing the Afghan crisis is essential for comprehending the complexities of media representation, agenda-setting processes, and the role of media in shaping public discourse on global issues.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study is quantitative in nature. It examines data using the methodology of content analysis. Talk programs on television have been chosen by political players as the most often used media outlet to discuss the Afghan situation or goals. Additionally, in accordance with the research approach, the study focused on the examination of particular subjects and attention spans. To determine the main causes of the current crises in Afghanistan, the researcher has chosen the top TV channels for current affairs web news that is broadcast on well-known international television.

Content analysis is a research process wherein the content of textual, visual, or audio materials is methodically analyzed to find themes, patterns, and meanings. This technique offers an organized and impartial approach to investigate the existence and occurrence of particular terms, expressions, or ideas in a collection of information. A wide range of material, including written documents, speeches, interviews, photos, videos, and social media posts, can be subjected to content analysis. Determining the parameters of the analysis, formulating precise research questions or objectives, and choosing pertinent material for review are usually the first steps used by researchers. Creating a coding system or collection of categories to reflect the relevant variables is the next stage. This coding scheme is a method for methodically classifying and measuring the (Drisko & Maschi, 2016).

Researchers apply the coding method to the chosen content during analysis, giving various parts codes or labels. Through this technique, recurrent themes, patterns, or trends in the data can be found. Numerical techniques, such computing frequencies or percentages, are frequently utilized to offer numerical understandings of the distribution of coded parts. Numerous disciplines, including political science, marketing, sociology, psychology, and communication studies, might benefit from content analysis. It is used by researchers to look at propaganda, public opinion, media portrayals, discourse analysis, and the effects of communication on people and society (Harwood & Garry, 2003).

The effectiveness with which content analysis can evaluate massive amounts of data is one of its advantages. It is not without limitations, though, including the possibility of subjective interpretation during coding and the propensity to oversimplify complicated events. To improve the validity and reliability of their findings, researchers must carefully take into account these elements and establish intercoder dependability. Overall, content analysis is a versatile and

widely used method that contributes valuable insights to both qualitative and quantitative research approaches (Stemler, 2015).

3.1 Research Design:

The researcher collected the data from TV web news for content analysis involves systematic procedures to ensure a comprehensive and structured approach and identify the key themes for analysing within the TV web news that align research objectives on the basis of different factors such as viewership, popularity, and thematic relevance to ensure the selected shows which represent the research goals.

The researcher creates a coding scheme and set of categories for align research questions. Coding categories was reflect the elements which researcher want to analyse, such as speaker roles, topics discussed, tone, and any other relevant variables and decide on a sampling strategy based on the research objectives and choose to analyse a specific time period (three months), a certain number of particular talk show hosts ensure that the current sample is representative and diverse enough to capture the variability within the content.

The researcher develops a data collection tool that includes coding scheme and space for notes and chooses to record the web news and then transcribe the content. Before starting the full-scale coding process, the researcher conduct a pilot test on a small sample of web news for identification of any ambiguities in the coding scheme and ensures that coders understand and apply the criteria consistently.

The current study begins with the coding process systematically. Code each relevant element according to coding scheme and organize and manage the coded data in a secure and easily accessible format using specialized software. The researcher validated the coded data by randomly checking a portion of the coded material to ensure accuracy and reliability.

3.2 Population of the Study:

In research and statistical terms, the "population" refers to the entire group of individuals or instances about whom the research is concerned. It is the larger group that the researcher wants to draw conclusions about based on the study's findings (Krieger, 2012). The population in this study includes *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*.

3.3 Sample

The research study used purposive sampling technique (known as judgmental, selective) for this study. The purposive sampling helped the researcher to get access to a particular subset of the population that shares certain characteristics. In this study, the subset of the population is the coverage of Afghan Crisis (not the coverage of other issues and events) by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*. Purposive sampling helps the researcher to access to any news articles and report whose interest lies only in Afghan Crisis and its consequences.

3.4 Operationalization of Variables

It is important to define operationally those important words that are often used in this research.

3.4.1 Political Violence Variables

Attaining a political, economic, religious, or social goals, voting, political protest and political campaign

Political violence variables encompass a range of factors that contribute to or influence the occurrence, intensity, and dynamics of violent acts within a political context. These variables can include socio-economic disparities, political grievances, ethnic or religious tensions, historical legacies of conflict, state repression, and the presence of armed groups or insurgencies. Additionally, factors such as weak governance, corruption, lack of rule of law, and impunity for perpetrators can exacerbate tensions and contribute to cycles of violence. Furthermore, external influences, such as foreign interventions, arms trafficking, and geopolitical rivalries, may also play a significant role in fueling political violence. Understanding these variables and their interactions is essential for analyzing, predicting, and addressing political violence, as well as for developing effective strategies for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction.

3.4.2 Education

Academic scholar ships, policy making, school, colleges, universities construction. And especially education for women

Education encompasses the systematic process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes through formal instruction, informal learning experiences, and practical training. It

is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of personal development, social progress, and economic prosperity. Education plays a crucial role in empowering individuals to realize their full potential, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Moreover, education contributes to the development of informed and engaged citizens, promoting democratic values, social cohesion, and respect for diversity. Beyond individual benefits, education serves as a catalyst for sustainable development, driving innovation, economic growth, and social transformation. Access to quality education for all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic background, is essential for building inclusive societies and achieving global goals for human development and well-being.

3.4.3 Job loses

The people of Afghan do not have proper jobs. Those who's have jobs during USA regime yet they do not have.

Job loss refers to the involuntary termination of employment by an individual, typically due to factors such as company downsizing, restructuring, economic downturns, or technological advancements. It represents a significant disruption to livelihoods and can have profound economic, social, and psychological impacts on individuals, families, and communities. Job loss often leads to financial strain, insecurity, and a loss of social status, as well as feelings of anxiety, stress, and depression. Moreover, it can exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups and those with limited access to resources or support networks. Addressing job loss requires comprehensive strategies to support affected individuals, including unemployment benefits, retraining programs, job placement services, and measures to stimulate economic growth and create new employment opportunities.

3.4.4 Collapsing Economy

A collapsing economy refers to a severe and rapid decline in a nation's economic performance, often characterized by a sharp contraction in GDP, widespread unemployment, financial instability, and a decline in overall economic activities. This can result from various factors, including financial crises, political instability, external shocks, or mismanagement of economic policies. A collapsing economy can have profound and lasting effects on the well-being of a population, leading to social unrest, poverty, and a prolonged period of economic recovery.

A collapsing economy refers to a severe and rapid deterioration in a nation's economic performance, characterized by a sharp decline in key indicators such as GDP, employment, investment, and consumer spending. This crisis can be triggered by various factors, including financial crises, natural disasters, political instability, external shocks, or structural imbalances within the economy. A collapsing economy often results in widespread unemployment, poverty, and social unrest, as businesses shutter, incomes plummet, and essential services become inaccessible. Moreover, it can lead to currency devaluation, inflation, and a loss of investor confidence, further exacerbating the economic downturn. Addressing a collapsing economy requires urgent and decisive action, including fiscal stimulus measures, monetary policy interventions, structural reforms, and international assistance, to stabilize the economy, restore confidence, and lay the groundwork for sustainable recovery and growth.

3.4.5 Refugee/Migration

A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their home country due to fear of persecution, war, violence, or other life-threatening conditions. Refugees seek safety and asylum in another country, often with the hope of eventually returning home or resettling in a new place.

Refugee migration refers to the movement of individuals across international borders in search of safety, protection, and better opportunities due to persecution, conflict, violence, or humanitarian crises in their home countries. Refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes due to well-founded fears of persecution based on factors such as race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, and who are unable or unwilling to return due to fear of further harm. Migration, on the other hand, refers to the movement of people from one place to another, often in search of better economic prospects, educational opportunities, or reunification with family members. Both refugees and migrants face significant challenges, including risks of exploitation, discrimination, and precarious living conditions, as well as legal and logistical barriers to accessing protection and assistance. Addressing the needs of refugees and migrants requires comprehensive approaches that uphold human rights, provide humanitarian assistance, facilitate safe and orderly migration pathways, and address root causes of displacement and migration.

3.4.6 New Class of Hungry

The term "new class of hungry" has significant ambiguity and might mean different things depending on the situation. It could allude to a population that is experiencing food

insecurity or hunger as a result of ongoing disputes, economic difficulties, or other circumstances. It could also be interpreted metaphorically to refer to a group that is hungry for something else entirely, like prosperity, knowledge, or change. It's difficult to offer an accurate analysis in the absence of additional exact background.

3.5 Instruments

The primary instrument for content analysis is a comprehensive coding scheme. This scheme outlines the specific variables and categories that researchers will use to analyze the content of web news articles from *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*. It includes predefined codes for framing elements, such as themes, tone, sources quoted, and any other relevant features. The coding scheme serves as a roadmap for systematically dissecting the textual and visual components of each news article. Each news article's textual and graphic components can be methodically examined using the coding scheme as a guide.

One essential tool for obtaining the chosen web news stories is access to *CNN* and *Al Jazeera's* digital archives. Subscriptions, agreements, or permits are required for researchers to access and get the required data. This tool guarantees that current, accurate information from the selected media sources is used in the study.

Identifying the appropriate data analysis tools is essential. Depending on the nature of the study, researcher used statistical software (SPSS) for quantitative analysis tools for in-depth thematic exploration. The chosen tools align the research objectives and aid in deriving meaningful insights from the coded data.

3.6 Time Period

Time period for this study is from 1st September, 2021 to 30st Nov 2021. The key reasons for selecting these first three months Taliban II government are: During the initial days after the collapse of Ashraf Ghani's government, hundreds of ISIS members were freed from jail and ISIS regrouped and accelerated their activities. A new front under the name of (National Resistance front) was opened against the Taliban and started war in north Afghanistan especially in Panjsher province.

A series economic crisis was running and people attempting to leave the country. Afghanistan was the hot topic for international media. The selection of three months is based on the need to understand the first three months of Taliban's re-emergence as rulers of Afghanistan

after more than 20. The selection of time period is furthered driven by the need to understand how two international reputable media organizations navigated the coverage of fall of Ashraf Ghani's regime and re-emergence of Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

3.7 Conceptualization of a variables

Conceptualization of variables is a crucial step in the research process, involving the clear and precise definition of the abstract ideas or concepts that a researcher aims to measure. This process lays the foundation for designing empirical studies and ensures that the variables under investigation are well-defined and aligned with the research objectives. In the realm of social science research, variables are characteristics or phenomena that can take on different values. These values are subject to change during the course of a study, and conceptualization is the process of defining what those values represent. For example, if the variable is "academic achievement," conceptualization would involve specifying what constitutes academic achievement, whether it is grades, test scores, or other indicators.

The variables of the study were further classified into six class's i.e. Women Education Variables, Political violence variables, Job loses variables, New class of hungry variables, Collapsing economy variables, Refugees/ Migration variables acquire all the basic data relate to Afghanistan.

3.7.1 Women's Education

Women's education refers to the process of providing formal and informal learning opportunities for girls and women. It encompasses all levels of education, from primary and secondary education to higher education and vocational training. Women's education is a critical component of efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women in various aspects of life (DiPrete & Buchmann, 2013).

3.7.2 Political Violence

Political violence refers to the use of force or coercion for political purposes, often aimed at influencing or challenging the existing political order. It can take various forms, ranging from protests and demonstrations to more extreme acts such as terrorism, insurgency, or armed conflict. Political violence is typically characterized by its connection to political objectives, seeking to advance or challenge certain ideologies, policies, or power structures (Ostby, 2013).

3.7.3 Jobless

The term "jobless" refers to the state of being without a job or employment. When individuals are jobless, it means that they are currently unemployed and not engaged in regular, gainful work. Joblessness can occur for various reasons, including economic downturns, layoffs, company closures, or personal circumstances that prevent individuals from actively participating in the workforce (Geobey, 2013).

3.7.4 New class of hungry

According to Jhon (2002) a craving or urgent need for food or a specific nutrient

3.7.5 Collapsing Economy

A collapsing economy refers to a severe and rapid decline in a nation's economic performance, often characterized by a sharp contraction in GDP, widespread unemployment, financial instability, and a decline in overall economic activities. This can result from various factors, including financial crises, political instability, external shocks, or mismanagement of economic policies. A collapsing economy can have profound and lasting effects on the well-being of a population, leading to social unrest, poverty, and a prolonged period of economic recovery.

3.7.6 Refugees/ Migration

Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin for reasons of feared persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection. The refugee definition can be found in the 1951 Convention and regional refugee instruments, as well as UNHCR's Statute.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Conducting a comparative study on the framing of the Afghan Crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime involves careful attention to ethical considerations. The usable data in the current analysis is obtained from publicly available sources, since the content is already accessible to the public. However, it is crucial to respect copyright laws and terms of use specified by the news organizations. The researcher safeguards the identities of individuals mentioned in the news articles, especially in sensitive contexts.

Respect the privacy and security of those individuals who directly or indirectly affected by the events discussed in the media coverage. The researcher maintained objectivity and

impartiality throughout the research process and reduces the personal biases and ensured that the study is conducted in a fair and unbiased manner. Strive for accuracy and reliability in data collection and analysing and ensures that information is represented truthfully and without distortion.

The researcher shows their attentively toward the cultural sensitivities and nuances present in the framing of the Afghan crisis and avoided perpetuating stereotypes or misrepresenting cultural, religious, or ethnic groups. Make an effort to give a complex and realistic portrayal within the circumstances. The study on the framing of the Afghan problem following the Ashraf Ghani government upholds the ideals of integrity, respect, and responsibility in the current analysis by including these ethical considerations into the research design and implementation.

3.9 Unit of analysis

The particular object or degree of observation that researchers concentrate on while examining a phenomenon is referred to as the unit of analysis in research. It is an important idea that aids in defining the parameters and extent of a research investigation. The study question, goals, and characteristics of the phenomenon being studied all influence the choice of analytic unit (Kumar, 2018). The only talk programs that are relevant to the chosen situation are used as the analytical unit in this study.

4.0 DATA PRESENTATION

In the realm of research, effective data representation is essential for conveying complex information in a manner that is accessible and interpretable. The researcher used the method of tables, which organize numerical data in columns and rows, facilitating easy comparison of values. Tables are particularly useful for presenting raw data, summary statistics, or the results of statistical analyses. In the current analysis each column in a table typically corresponds to a variable, and each row represents an observation or data point.

In the following table the researcher use the concept of Crisis Dominantly, Crisis Submissively, Reality View, and Ambiguous. These concepts are often used in crisis communication research, particularly in the context of news crises. One notable researcher who has used these concepts is Timothy Coombs, a prominent scholar in the field of crisis communication. In his research, Coombs (1999) developed the Situational Crisis Communication Theory (SCCT), which categorizes crisis responses into four types (Crisis Dominantly, Crisis Submissively, Reality View, and Ambiguous).

Table No: 4.1

***CNN* Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in September 2021**

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 September	11-20 September	21- 30 September	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	12 times	13 times	9 times	34 times
2	Crisis Submissively	2 times	2 times	4 times	8 times
3	Reality View	1 time	3 times	4 times	8 times
4	Ambiguous View	5 times	2 times	3 times	10 times
	Total	20 times	20 times	20 times	60 times

The above table No 1 demonstrates the *CNN* talk show about Afghanistan crisis in September 2023 (after Ashraf Ghani Regime). The *CNN* mentioned 34 times in one month (September) about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 8 times submissively, 8 times Reality and 10 times ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. The total quantity of the whole month is 60

times. The current table clearing the month of September from 1-10 have great frequency about the dominant crisis regarding Afghanistan, and 11-20 September also have huge number regard *CNN* web news. The month of September represent the government of Taliban. The smallest unit of the current table is submissively and reality crises both have 16 times totally.

Table No: 4.2

***CNN* Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in October 2021**

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 October	11-20 October	21- 31 October	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	15 times	10 times	13 times	38 times
2	Crisis Submissively	1 times	2 times	1 times	4 times
3	Reality View	2 time	2 times	1 times	5 times
4	Ambiguous View	6 times	3 times	2 times	11 times
Total		24 times	17 times	17 times	58 times

The above table indicates the *CNN* talk show about Afghanistan crisis in October 2023(after Ashraf Ghani Regime). The *CNN* mentioned 38 times in one month (October) about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 4 times submissively, 5 times Reality and 11 times ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. The total quantity of the whole month is 58 times. The current table specifying that the month of October from 1-10 have great frequency about the dominant crisis regarding Afghanistan, and 11-20 October also have huge number regard *CNN* web news October 2021. The month of October represent the government of Taliban. The smallest units of the current table are submissively and reality crises both have 9 times totally.

Table No: 4.3

***CNN* Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in November 2021**

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 November	11-20 November	21- 30 November	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	8 times	7 times	14 times	29 times
2	Crisis Submissively	4 times	1 times	5 times	10 times
3	Reality View	0 time	1 times	0 times	1 time
4	Ambiguous View	2 times	5 times	1 times	8 times
	Total	14 times	14 times	20 times	48 times

The above table 03 elaborates the web news talk show of Cable News Network about Afghanistan crisis in November 2023 (after Ashraf Ghani Regime). The *CNN* mentioned 29 times in one month (November) about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 10 times submissively, 1 times Reality and 8 times ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. The total quantity of the whole month is 48 times. The above table postulating that the month of November from 1-10 have great regularity about the dominant crisis regarding Afghanistan, and 11-20 also have huge number regard *CNN* web news October 2021. The month of November represent the government of Taliban. The smallest unit of the current table is only reality crises which have 1 times totally in whole month.

Table No: 4.4

***Al Jazeera* Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in September 2021**

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 September	11-20 September	21- 30 September	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	2 times	1 time	1 time	4 times
2	Crisis Submissively	12 times	10 times	13 times	35 times
3	Reality View	8 times	9 times	4 times	21 times
4	Ambiguous View	1 time	1 time	1 time	3 times
	Total	23 times	21 times	19 times	63 times

The current table describes the *Al Jazeera* talk show about Afghanistan crisis in September 2023. The *Al Jazeera* mentioned 4 times in one month (September) about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 35 times submissively, 21 times Reality and 3 times ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. In September the *Al Jazeera* covered 63 times in the whole month about the Afghanistan crises. The current table clearing the month of September from 1-10 have great rate of recurrence about the submissively crisis regarding Afghanistan, and 11-20 September also have huge number regard *Al Jazeera* shows. The month of September represent the government of Taliban. The smallest units of the current table are ambiguous view and crisis dominancy both have 7 times totally out of 63.

Table No: 4.5

Al Jazeera Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in October 2021

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 October	11-20 October	21- 31 October	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	4 times	4 times	1 time	9 times
2	Crisis Submissively	15 times	3 times	6 times	24 times
3	Reality View	7 times	7 times	6 times	20 times
4	Ambiguous View	0 time	0 time	1 time	1 time
	Total	26 times	14 times	14 times	54 times

The above table shows the Al- Jazeera talk show about Afghanistan crisis in October 2023 (after Ashraf Ghani Regime). The Al- Jazeera mentioned 9 times in one month (October) about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 24 times submissively, 20 times Reality and 1 time ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. The total quantity of the whole month is 54 times. The above existing calculation table stipulating that the month of October from 1-10 have great frequency about the t crisis submissively regarding Afghanistan, and 21 to 31 October also have huge number regard Al- Jazeera web news October 2021. The month of October 2021 represent the government of Taliban. The category of ambiguous view has zero time in all over the month of October.

Table No: 4.6

Al Jazeera Web news about Afghanistan Crisis in November 2021

Sr. No	Crisis Status	01-10 November	11-20 November	21- 30 November	Total
1	Crisis Dominantly	2 times	6 times	6 times	14 times
2	Crisis Submissively	11 times	11 times	10 times	32 times
3	Reality View	5 times	9 times	6 times	20 times
4	Ambiguous View	2 times	2 times	0 time	4 times
	Total	20 times	28 times	22 times	70 times

The above table clarifies the web news web news of Al- Jazeera about Afghanistan crisis in November 2023. The Al- Jazeera mentioned 14 times in one month about the dominant crises in Afghanistan, 32 times submissively, 20 times Reality and 4 times ambiguous view of the crises about Afghanistan. The total quantity of the whole month is 70 times. The above existing calculation table stipulating that the month of November from 1-10 have great regularity about the crisis submissively regarding Afghanistan throughout the whole month. The phase of November 2021 symbolizes the control of specific group on Afghanistan. The category of ambiguous view has zero time in all over the month of November.

5.0 DISCUSSION& ANALYSIS CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

5.1 Discussion:

The framing of the Afghan crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime, as observed through a comparative study of *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news, sparks a meaningful discussion on the diverse narratives presented by global media outlets. The two networks, with their distinct origins and perspectives, offer unique lenses through which the complex events in Afghanistan are portrayed.

CNN, as a prominent American news network, tends to themes the crisis in a manner that aligns with Western interests and concerns. The coverage often underscores the potential threats posed by the Taliban resurgence, emphasizing the implications for global security and stability. *CNN*'s narratives frequently incorporate insights from U.S. officials, providing viewers with a perspective that aligns with the priorities and strategies of the American government in response to the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

In contrast, *Al Jazeera*, rooted in the Middle East, takes a different approach by prioritizing local perspectives and providing a more comprehensive understanding of the crisis. The network's coverage delves into the historical, cultural, and socio-political dimensions within Afghanistan. By amplifying the voices of Afghan civilians and regional actors, *Al Jazeera* attempts to present a nuanced view that goes beyond the geopolitical implications, capturing the human stories and the impact on the local population.

This comparative study raises critical questions about media representation, bias, and the importance of diverse viewpoints in shaping public understanding. It highlights how the framing of a crisis can vary significantly based on the cultural and geographic context of the news outlet. Viewers are encouraged to engage in media literacy, critically evaluating the narratives presented by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* to develop a more well-rounded and informed perspective on the Afghan Crisis.

Moreover, the study underscores the broader issue of media influence in shaping public opinion and the potential impact on global perceptions of geopolitical events. It emphasizes the need for individuals to seek information from multiple sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of complex situations and to be aware of the potential biases inherent in media framing. In an era of rapid information dissemination, this comparative study serves as a

reminder of the diverse narratives that shape our understanding of world events. In the world of media, the Afghan Crisis unfolded after the collapse of the Ashraf Ghani regime. As the world turned its eyes to the unfolding events, two media giants, *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*, embarked on a journey to narrate the story through their respective lenses.

In the realm of American news, *CNN* took the lead. Their narrative painted a picture of the crisis heavily influenced by Western interests and geopolitical concerns. The story they told was one of potential threats posed by the Taliban's resurgence, emphasizing the implications for global security and stability. The characters in their tale were often U.S. officials, providing insights into the American government's response and strategies in the face of the evolving situation in Afghanistan. *CNN's* storyline, influenced by its Western roots, focused on the challenges faced by the international community in the wake of the Ghani regime's collapse.

On the other side of the storytelling spectrum was *Al Jazeera*, an emissary from the Middle East. Their narrative unfolded with a different set of characters and priorities. *Al Jazeera's* story centered on local perspectives, amplifying the voices of Afghan civilians and regional actors. Their tale delved into the historical context, cultural nuances, and socio-political dynamics within Afghanistan. *Al Jazeera* sought to offer a more nuanced understanding of the crisis, moving beyond the geopolitical chessboard to capture the human stories and the impact on the Afghan population.

As the two media giants spun their narratives, viewers around the world found themselves immersed in contrasting stories of the Afghan Crisis. The tale told by *CNN* highlighted the broader global implications, while *Al Jazeera* wove a narrative intricately connected to the local tapestry of Afghanistan.

The Framing of the Afghan Crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime, as told by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera*, became a parable of media influence and representation. It sparked discussions in the kingdom of public opinion about the importance of diverse perspectives and critical media literacy. The moral of the story: in a world where stories shape understanding, it is crucial to seek narratives from different storytellers to grasp the full complexity of the tales that unfold on the global stage.

5.2 Conclusion:

In conclusion, a comparative study of the framing of the Afghan Crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime by *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news reveals distinct perspectives and priorities in

their coverage. *CNN*, as a prominent American news network, tended to themes the crisis through the lens of Western interests and geopolitical implications. The coverage emphasized the potential threats posed by the Taliban resurgence and often incorporated perspectives from U.S. officials, offering insights into the American government's response.

On the other hand, *Al Jazeera*, with its roots in the Middle East, provided a different angle by centering its framing on local perspectives, including the voices of Afghan civilians and regional actors. The network's coverage delved into the historical context, cultural nuances, and socio-political dynamics within Afghanistan, aiming to offer a more nuanced understanding of the crisis.

The comparative analysis underscores the inherent biases and priorities of each news outlet, with *CNN* focusing on global security and Western interests, while *Al Jazeera* prioritized the regional and local dimensions of the crisis. Media consumers seeking a comprehensive understanding of the Afghan Crisis should consider consulting multiple sources, as these divergent themes highlight the importance of obtaining a well-rounded perspective on complex geopolitical events. The study emphasizes the need for critical media literacy to navigate the diverse narratives presented by different news outlets and gain a more nuanced view of global events.

5.3 Summary:

The comparative study on the framing of the Afghan crisis after the Ashraf Ghani regime focusing on *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* web news, unravelled distinct narrative threads woven by these influential media outlets *CNN*, reflecting a U.S.-centric perspective, themed the crisis within the context of global security threats, often emphasizing the implications for Western interests and geopolitical stability. In contrast, *Al Jazeera*, rooted in the Middle East, presented a more nuanced narrative, prioritizing local perspectives and delving into the historical, cultural, and socio-political dimensions within Afghanistan. The study revealed how media framing shapes public understanding, emphasizing the importance of diverse sources and critical media literacy. The contrasting narratives underscored the inherent biases and priorities of each outlet, urging media consumers to seek a comprehensive view for a more nuanced understanding of complex global events.

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